



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### ***Brule/Buffalo Counties***

*Diana Landegent*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The channel in the Chamberlain thaws and opens regularly due to the weather. The south boat ramp at Big Bend Dam is open. The water levels are low which could make the fast water boat ramp difficult to launch a boat from. Fishermen have reported catching a few walleyes from the boat near Crow Creek and Kiowa Flats. Ice fishermen have not been fishing on the ice that's left along the shorelines.

The fish cleaning stations are closed for the winter. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes and 8 walleyes possession. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge known as the dredge hole is now closed until April 30th.

REMINDER: Purchase your 2015 fishing license. The 2014 fishing license expired January 31st.



#### **Hunting Report:**

Canada goose season closed February 15<sup>th</sup>. The light goose conservation order opened statewide February 14 and closes May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This season includes snows, blue and Ross' geese. Canada geese, white-fronted geese or any other goose species cannot be taken.

A Bowhunter class is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> in Chamberlain. Students must register online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/ClassList.aspx>

A Huntsafe class is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Chamberlain. Students must register online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/ClassList.aspx>

#### ***Campbell County***

*Doug DeLaRoi*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below**

Anglers are having spotty success on Lake Oahe most walleye being caught are between 14 and 17 inches. Small lakes have had very little use with no reports. Make sure to purchase 2015

licenses.



### **Hunting Report:**

2014 licenses have expired remember to purchase 2015 licenses.

## ***Corson/Dewey Counties***

*Shawn Madison:*



### **Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. There are some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. Perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low. Not much biting.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** No activity. The year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

All seasons are closed in the area. We still have an abundance of coyotes there is a lot of pressure from callers and coyote calling contests. Coyotes have heard it all and are pretty unresponsive to calls.

## ***Charles Mix/Douglas Counties***

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

There have been a few people venturing out on foot in the Buryanek and Snake Creek areas. ATVs are not recommended as the ice around the shoreline is the thinnest. There have been a few boats below the Ft. Randall Dam on the nicer days, success is marginal.



### **Hunting Report:**

Still some time to get out and call predators. West river bobcat season closes on February 15. With warm weather like we have been experiencing the snow goose migration will be right around the corner.

## ***Gregory County***

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

Ice is deteriorated significantly with warm temperatures and precipitation. Do not venture out to ice fish if you are inexperienced. Safety always comes first. River ice is very dangerous and my suggestion is to stay off. Pond ice thickness is 5 inches or less to 8 inches prior to last weekends' warm temperatures. Don't fish alone.

Make sure you buy your 2015 Fishing License. 2014 licenses have expired.



### **Hunting Report:**

A valid hunting license is required to hunt small game, including rabbits. Remember the 2014 licenses EXPIRE on January 31, 2015. Make sure you have your 2015 license purchased. The cottontail rabbit season closes February 28 with a daily limit of 10 and possession limit of 30. Squirrel season ends February 28 the daily limit is 5 and possession limit is 15. Bobcat season ends this Sunday, February 15 remember a FURBEARER license is required to hunt/trap bobcat. Bobcat season is closed East River. If you accidentally catch a bobcat, notify a conservation officer. Do not remove or disturb the animal in the trap if it is deceased. West River bobcat season ends February 15. All harvested cats must be checked by an officer within 5 days of harvest. If you are done trapping for the season, please remove all of your traps from public property and road right of ways.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.

## ***Hyde/Hand Counties***

*Cory Flor*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Fishing has been slow due to poor ice conditions and warmer weather than usual.



### **Hunting Report:**

Don't forget to purchase your 2015 hunting and fishing licenses as the 2014 licenses expired at the end of January.

## ***Hughes County***

*John Murphy*



### **Fishing Report:**

Ice conditions vary greatly with the warm up and cooling off of the weather these past several weeks. People are reminded to double check ice conditions before venturing out on the ice. Reports from Joe Creek, West Bend, or North Bend, are that they are catching some fish but it has been slow. They are catching a few catfish and an occasional walleye at Farm Island.



### **Hunting Report:**

A reminder that the Unit 2 Canada Goose season, closed February 15, 2015. Also hunters are reminded that they needed to have their tree stands removed from GFP property by February 17, 2015.

## ***Jones County***

*Brian Ridgway*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River Report below***

The grasslands ponds are still producing angling opportunities for those anglers with cabin fever. Ice conditions vary tremendously from pond to pond. Over the past weekend, highs in the 70's reduced the ice thickness on every pond. Ice conditions varied from 4"-15" by the looks of things on Sunday, most ponds were going to open back up.



### **Hunting Report:**

As many hunting season draw to a close, now is the time hunters can start preparing for next years' hunting season. This is a great time to make of list of things you used, needed or even wanted. Spreading the list out evenly over the next 10 months is easier on the budget. Now is also a great time to thank landowners for allowing permission on to private property. It is also recommended to find a nice day to remove portable deer stands from the field to protect costly straps and cables from being weathered.

**Reminder: Portable deer stands need to be removed from lands owned, leased or controlled by GFP no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>**

## ***Lyman County***

*Brian Ridgway*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Many of the boat ramps are iced in or are still too shallow to launch boats. Anglers that have made it onto the river are experiencing decent success. Anglers targeting walleye near the American Legion Bridge found nice fish in the 17"-20" range. Fish were biting on minnows.



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## ***Potter County***

*Brad Saltsman*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:**

Potts Dam – no fishing report

Lake Hurley – Anglers are catching a few perch around the area of the boat ramp

Simon Dam – no fishing activity

Missouri River – Ice is still pretty good. Most pressure ridges have disappeared causing some hazards. Fishing is fair around Whitlocks and fair to good near the Moreau River. Anglers are catching walleyes in 30-40 feet of water



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## ***Stanley County***

*Josh Thompson*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

**Twin Dams** – The bass and perch bite has been hit and miss throughout the day.

**Hayes Lake** – Bluegill, northern pike, and largemouth bass have all been biting fairly well. Pursuers of the pike have had better success fishing the shallower waters.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Anglers have been catching some fish. These ponds offer chances at bluegill, perch, bass, and more.

**Lake Oahe** – Fishing activity has slowed with the unstable ice conditions.

**Lake Sharpe** – Fishing activity has slowed. Use extreme caution before venturing out onto any unfamiliar ice.



### **Hunting Report:**

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is the final day of the Cottontail Rabbit and Tree Squirrel hunting season.

**Coyote** – Coyote numbers have been good this year. Calling and trapping are both great ways to pursue this animal.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## ***Sully County***

*Andy Schmahl*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Cottonwood Lake: No activity

Lake Oahe: Fishing has been slow, but there has been some success. Mostly fishermen have stayed off the ice due to the warm weather degrading ice conditions and making the ice very inconsistent. If you venture out on the ice, please use caution.



**Hunting Report:**

Goose Hunting: Goose hunting in Sully County has been extremely hit or miss with a lot of miss. The warm weather has melted the snow and opened up the water. So the geese are very spread out and have become difficult to pattern. The goose season is quickly coming to a close, and it winds down on February 15<sup>th</sup> this year.

***Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties***

*Chris Dekker*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Fishing has slowed. The ice is not good in many locations.



**Hunting Report:**

Coyote hunting has continues to be good. A little fresh snow should boost harvest.

***Walworth County***

*Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below**

Anglers are having spotty success on Lake Oahe most walleye being caught are between 14 and 17 inches. Small lakes have had very little use with no reports. Make sure to purchase 2015 licenses.



**Hunting Report:**

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## Missouri River report:

### *Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe*

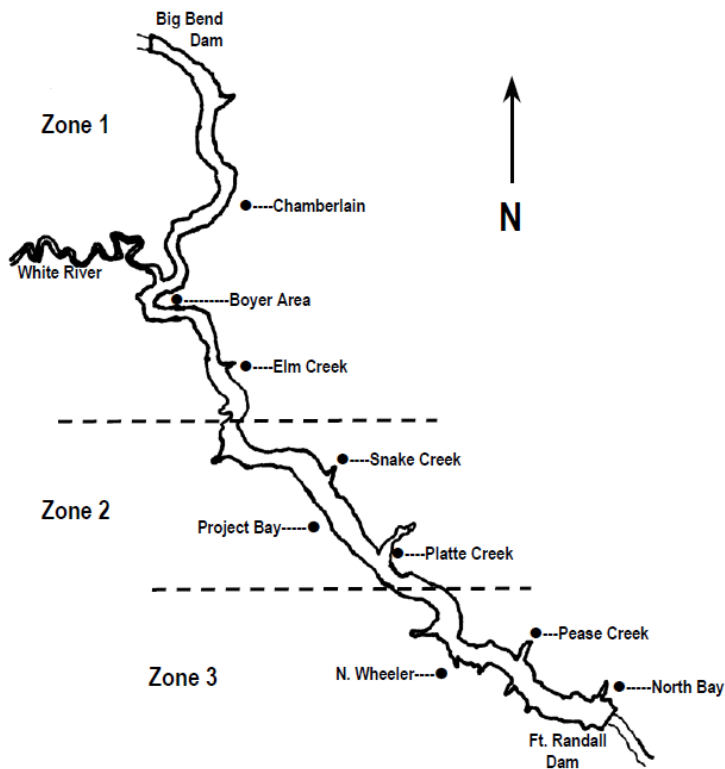
*Kyle Potter*

#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report



### *Lake Francis Case*

*Gary Knecht*

CAUTION - Ice conditions on the reservoirs can be variable. Areas with flowing water may have thin ice, so use extreme caution when walking on the ice and check ice thickness often.

#### Zone 1

On warm days boats have been venturing out below Big Bend Dam with some success on walleyes. The main channel is open in the Chamberlain area, but has been freezing over on cold days.

**SIZE RESTRICTION** - There is a 15 inch minimum length limit for walleye/sauger and only one walleye/sauger may be kept over 20 inches.

**CLOSED AREA** - The area between the railroad bridge and the I-90 Bridge in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing from Dec 1 through April 30.